

the wound, the effects were at once apparent. A small pellicle formed over its whole surface, which was shortly replaced by a firm, consistent cicatrix.

In one or two cases operated upon by Dieffenbach, much swelling took place in the new formed nose the day after the operation, arising from the difficulty of the blood, which had entered by the arteries, being conducted off by the veins. In one case the nose became so enormously distended, that it was feared the adhesions would be entirely destroyed, and it was only by the repeated application of leeches, 70 or 80 being employed in the course of 48 hours, that this danger was finally avoided. In the present case, from the extension given to the incision on the left side, care being taken that traction should not be made too forcibly on the part, so as to compress the pedicle at its base, the circulation was, from the first, unobstructed.

In the account of the foregoing case, it has been attempted to bring forward some of the most important points which might be of service as a guide to future operators; and if the author has been so fortunate as to throw any new light, however small, on the operation, he will feel that he has rendered a service to science and to humanity.

Boston, March, 1837.

J. MASON WARREN.

LARGE DOSES OF CALOMEL.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR—The author of "Remarks on Itinerants," in his third number, speaking of mercury and its preparations, says he has used it after all other remedies had failed, in doses of a teaspoonful heaped up, once in six hours, for a week, as a vermicide. He says his patient was a little girl, five years of age. Now, Sir, I wish to inquire whether calomel was the preparation he used, and if so, was the article genuine? If he gave it internally, as is probable from the reading, what effects attended its operation besides the expulsion of one hundred and twenty-five worms? In other words, did it, or did it not, produce much impression on the system?

If, Mr. Editor, you do not deem these interrogatories unimportant, or in other respects objectionable, I wish them to be proposed, through the Journal, to the author of those remarks.

N.
Vermont, Feb. 13th, 1837.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MARCH, 8, 1837.

Ms. 1125
STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

THE following are extracts from the report of the Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Charitable Institutions, which is a document high-

ly honorable to his character as a man of enlarged feelings and true benevolence. The result of the application to the General Court, will hereafter be given. It seems impossible that the claims of the Institution should be neglected in any respect.

"The State Lunatic Hospital is indeed a 'noble charity,' founded by a philanthropy and sympathy which are the offspring of an enlightened, liberal and benevolent spirit; 'to minister to a mind diseased,' to restore the aberration of intellect, and to revive the faculties of the soul, these are its objects, and these its heavenly offices. In the progress of mental and medical science, improved plans of treatment have been introduced into the lunatic hospital, followed by the most gratifying success. For chains and fetters, freedom is now allowed, kindness for severity, and for the cold, damp dungeon, the pleasant light of day. With the view of obtaining the necessary information, to enable the Committee to decide on the several subjects referred to them, they have visited the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, and made such personal examination as the opportunity offered. Of the general state of things, they can speak in terms of the highest approbation. The systematic order and regularity which prevailed throughout the institution, the attention to cleanliness, the devotion of the attendants to the duties of their places, all indicate a judicious system of management on the part of the superintendent."

"From the report of the trustees, and the investigations of the Committee, there are several subjects which they deem deserving the attention of the Legislature. First, respecting the purchase of more land, for the accommodation and benefit of the hospital. The Committee agree with the trustees, that it is indispensable to the completion of the general system of management, which has been so successfully pursued in this institution. Exercise of some kind is absolutely necessary, both for the restoration and continuance of health; mechanical occupation is well adapted to the condition of some, while to many the cultivation of a farm would be decidedly more beneficial; while this employment invigorates the physical powers, its moral influence is peculiarly favorable to the faculties of the mind—interest is excited, and feelings and sentiments infused and cherished, which no other agency can produce. Besides the high value it possesses as a remedial means, its importance on the score of economy ought not to be disregarded.

"The next subject deserving the consideration of the Legislature, is the importance of religious instruction, and public services on the sabbath. The evidence of the great advantage to be derived from this source is of recent date, but the facts are of the most satisfactory character; the results of actual experiment exhibit proof conclusive of the benign influence of the truths of divine revelation, in arresting the wandering mind, and in fixing the distracted thoughts. When no considerations which relate exclusively to this world, can make an impression upon a mind insane, the presentation of right views of the world to come, exhibiting higher motives for action, may produce a deeper and more lasting effect. As a most important appendage to the hospital, and affording a most efficient remedial agency, the Committee recommend the erection of a chapel.

"The sum charged for supporting a patient at the hospital has not hitherto exceeded the sum of \$2,50 per week, notwithstanding the high price of provisions; in some few cases it has been less, whereas the actual expense has, for the past year, been more than \$3,00 per week.

"The whole number of patients admitted into the hospital is 510; of this number about one half have been supported by themselves, or their friends; the other half is made up of state and town paupers. That this charity of the State may be enjoyed by all, it is desirable that the expenses for support should not be increased, but that indigent persons, not paupers, should have the benefit at even a less charge than \$2,50. With this object in view, the Committee suggest the propriety of paying the salaries of the officers of the hospital from the treasury of the Commonwealth, thus avoiding the necessity of annually voting a sum for contingencies, to supply the deficiency, which in the present arrangement must necessarily be done.

"The Committee would respectfully ask the attention of the Legislature, to the communication of His Excellency the Governor, on the subject of this interesting institution; also, to the report of the "commissioners for enlarging the State Lunatic Hospital," for a satisfactory exposition of the causes and circumstances which have rendered it necessary that an additional appropriation be made, to enable them to complete the object designed by their commission."

"The sum of \$10,000 is estimated by the commissioners, as sufficient for the completion of the building, and furnishing it ready for occupancy; and from its present state of forwardness, it is confidently expected that it will be prepared for the reception of patients by the time fixed in the original contract, the 15th of June, 1837.

"The number of patients which can then be well accommodated is from 230 to 250, and in the successful progress of improvement fondly anticipated, and by adopting a judicious system of classification, a still greater number may participate in the enjoyment of its privileges and blessings. Thus the bounty of the government will be extended, and be productive of an amount of good far exceeding all pecuniary considerations.

H. H. CHILDS, Chairman."

MEDICAL PREMIUM.

THE New York State Medical Society, at a recent meeting, passed the resolution that one hundred dollars be offered for the best dissertation on the following subject:—

"Diseases of the Spine, their causes, symptoms, and best mode of treatment.

The following gentlemen were appointed the committee on Prize Questions, for the ensuing year.

Drs. John B. Beck, James R. Manly, Richard Pennell, John C. Cheeseman, Thomas Downing.

The Dissertations to be sent to the committee before the first day of January, 1838.

P. VAN O'LINDA, Secretary.

No. 26 [Scraps]

Poisoning with Yew Berries.—A fatal case of poisoning with the berries or seeds of the yew (*Taxus baccata*), is related in the London *Lancet*. Of five children who had been seen under a yew tree, the youngest, aged three a half years, was soon after seized with vomiting, throwing up some of the yew berries. Before medical assistance could arrive, the child had been convulsed and died. The other children were slightly affected, and